(c) The sector-wise export targets fixed during the first two years of the Eighth Five Year Plan are given below. The targets for the remaining years are yet to be fixed.

(In million US Dollars)

Sector	Targets 1992-93	1993-94
Cotton Textiles	1670	1797.88
Readymade Garments	2707	3510.51
Woollen Textiles	94	167.90
Silk Textiles	311	273.46
Man-made fibre textiles	536	551.44
Coir	31	36.50
Handicrafts	839	946.83
Jute	161	115.48
Total	6349	7400.00

Penalty on Indian Cotton Exporters by European Community

5550. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that few importers of cotton in European Community are contemplating to slap penalty on Indian exporters for failure to honour export commitments;

(b) if so, whether this failure on the part of Indian cotton exporters is attributable to Government's ad hoc order on cotton exports to ease the domestic cotton market situation;

(c) whether this temporary ban on cotton exports has achieved the desired effect on the domestic market prices; and

(d) what action Government have taken on the recommendations of the Chokka Rao Committee favouring complete liberalisation of both export and import of cotton and a long term cotton export policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) The World Cotton Exporters Association had expressed concern regarding suspension of cotton exports by the Government and had also asked for the review of the suspension order.

The cotton exports in respect of the contracted quantity were temporarily frozen in the wake of the sudden spurt in the prices of cotton and cotton yarn leading to distress to closure of several handloom and powerloom units in various regions of the country. The measure was able to check the steep rise in prices of cotton and cotton yarn. The Government has, however, lifted the freeze on exports of the contracted quantities of cotton on 31st March, 1994 to honour the contractual obligations.

(d) The Recommendations of the Chokka Rao Committee come within the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Government has got a long term cotton export policy as per which 5 lakh bales of cotton are to be released in the beginning of the cotton season after making detailed adjustments of the cotton crop. However, the Government is not in favour of the decontrol of cotton exports as the present cotton exports policy strives to balance the interests of the cotton farmers on the one hand and those of the handloom, powerloom and mill sector on the other. The Government has decided to take out import of cotton from the restricted list of the EXIM Policy and has permitted import with zero duty.

Development of Handicrafts in Gujarat

5551. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to develop handicrafts in rural backward areas in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accorded approval to any proposal in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The details of the scheme being implemented by the Government for promotion and development of handicrafts in rural and backward areas in the country including Gujarat.

(c) and (d) number of proposals as approved and the amount sanctioned during 1993-94 state-wise and scheme-wise is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 170, Annexure No. 113].